



Open Windows
TRAVEL

your *European River Cruise* fact sheet

GETTING THERE: Depending on the river cruise, several airports will be able to offer service. These include Ferenc Liszt International in Budapest (BUD), Prague Ruzyně Airport (PRG), Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS), and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG). Car services, taxis, and rideshares are available to get you from the airport to your ship.

LANGUAGE: English speakers will be in the minority, however all crew members speak English. Additionally announcements and written materials will be in English.

CLIMATE: The European climate is generally temperate, experiencing all four seasons.

MONEY/CURRENCY (CREDIT CARDS, DEBIT CARDS, TIPPING, ATMS): The main currency when traveling through Europe is the Euro. However, there are a few, such as Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and Hungary which still use their own currencies. Your onboard account will be listed in Euros, but many ships accept American Dollars and Euros as payment. They will also accept credit and debit cards. Traveler's checks are typically not accepted. ATMS are available throughout major cities in Europe. Note that all credit and debit card transactions will require a card with a chip instead of a magnetic strip like in the United States. Additionally, there will be a charge assessed for each transaction. Check with your bank before travel to ensure your card will be accepted. When visiting small towns, you will need local currency as many businesses in these locations do not accept credit or debit cards.

Onboard gratuities will vary by cruise line. In some cases, gratuities will be included in your fare. If they are not, the recommended gratuity is 3 Euros, per person per day, for the Cruise Director and 12 Euros, per person per day, for the crew.

Tipping is not required at restaurants in most of Europe. A 12-15% gratuity is normally included in your bill. If you would like to tip your waiter, a 5-10% gratuity is generous. Make sure to hand the money directly to your waitstaff as they are not likely to receive it when it is placed on your card.

ELECTRICITY: Onboard electricity is 220 V and will require a European 2-prong plug often referred to as a Europlug. All adapters must be EU certified.





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5 FAST FACTS

1. You won't get seasick on a river cruise! This is great news for travelers who are prone to motion sickness.

2. It is important to "go with the flow" while on a river cruise. Itineraries can change due to the water level. If the water is too high and the ship cannot get under bridges, they may change the itinerary or arrange for alternative transportation for excursions. The same may happen if there is a drought.

3. River cruising feels more like staying at a movable, boutique hotel than on a cruise ship. This is because they

hold much fewer people. You will likely know most of your fellow passengers by the end of your trip, making it easy to create life-long friendships.

4. A river cruise is an active vacation. You will be up early and off the ship to explore your destination. If you go back to the ship for lunch, you will be out again for an afternoon excursion.

5. While at their destination, the ships will moor next to each other. That means if you open your curtains, you will be looking directly into a stateroom on the neighboring ship, so be sure to keep those curtains closed.



5 THINGS TO PACK

1. Comfortable walking shoes - River cruises are active and will have you walking several miles a day as you explore each destination. Additionally, historic streets may be made of cobblestone, so thick soles may be preferred.

2. Rain gear - The weather can change quickly on a river cruise, so be sure to pack a waterproof jacket. They should be lightweight and easy to carry with you on your excursions.

3. Power cord and/or adaptors - Many cabins have only one or two outlets per room; that's where a power cord will come in handy. Look for one that is made for travelers and comes with plenty of USB ports. Adaptors should be certified EU.

4. Neutral clothing - Pick clothing items that can be mixed and matched throughout your cruise. Space may be tight in your cabin. For a seven-day cruise, think five to seven tops which can be matched with three bottoms. A few, small accessories can be added for a pop of color if desired.

5. Over the counter medications - As a whole, river cruises do not have medical clinics onboard, so be sure to pack acetaminophen and/or ibuprofen, cough and allergy medicines. Should the medicine you bring on-board not be enough, your river cruise crew will help you make arrangements to see an English speaking doctor.



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TOURS/EXCURSION IDEAS

1. Go to a thermal bath house in Budapest, Hungary
2. Visit the Basilica of St. Michael, the wedding venue of Maria and Captain Von Trapp in “The Sound of Music” in Mondsee, Austria
3. Schonbrunn Palace located outside Vienna, Austria
4. Taste apricot brandy in Krems, Austria
5. Kuenringerburg Castle in Dürnstein, Austria
6. Melk Abbey in Melk, Austria
7. Take a walking tour of Nuremberg, Germany
8. Stolzenfels Castle in Koblenz, Germany
9. Explore the Black Forest, Germany
10. Take a gondola ride in Rudesheim, Germany
11. Kolsch beer tasting in Cologne, Germany
12. Visit the Christmas Markets

